

The Stories Behind Gospel Music All Time Greatest Songs

Inspiring, soul-stirring, and deeply rooted in faith, gospel music has long held a special place in the hearts of believers. With its rich history and powerful messages, gospel songs have touched millions of lives around the world. In this article, we will delve into the stories behind some of the greatest gospel songs of all time.

1. "Amazing Grace" by John Newton

Amazing Grace

from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

John Newton, 1779.

19th Century American melody.

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

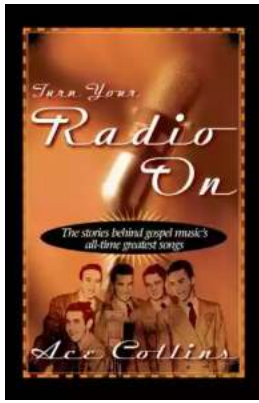
The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

One of the most well-known gospel songs, "Amazing Grace," was written by John Newton in the 18th century. Originally a slave trader, Newton experienced a powerful spiritual conversion during a life-threatening storm at sea. This profound event led him to give up his former lifestyle and dedicate himself to serving God. "Amazing Grace" beautifully captures Newton's gratitude for his redemption and showcases the power of God's mercy.



Turn Your Radio On: The Stories Behind Gospel Music's All-Time Greatest Songs

by Ace Collins (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 969 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 272 pages



2. "Oh Happy Day" by Edwin Hawkins



Created by Edwin Hawkins and his choir, "Oh Happy Day" became an unexpected hit and a staple in gospel music. Originally a hymn written in the mid-18th century by Philip Doddridge, the song underwent a transformation when Hawkins added his unique touch of contemporary gospel sound. The infectious joy and celebration conveyed in "Oh Happy Day" resonate with listeners of all backgrounds and continue to uplift spirits today.

3. "I'll Fly Away" by Albert E. Brumley

2 Commissioned by the Chancel Choir in honor of Rev. Dr. James M. Wilson on his retirement and sixteen years as Senior Pastor of Barrington United Methodist Church, Barrington, Illinois

I'll Fly Away

For S.A.T.B. Voices and Piano Accompaniment
with optional Rhythm*

Arranged by
JOEL RANEY

Words and Music by
ALBERT E. BRUMLEY

Peacefully (♩ = c. 92)
N.C.

pedal liberally

3 S.A. Unison
T.B. Unison

Some glad morn - ing when this life is o'er, ———

I'll fly a - way;
fly a -

*Rhythm parts - Guitar, Bass, Synth (or B-3 Organ), and Drums available: C 5874R

© 1932 in "Wonderful Message" by Hartford Music Co.
Renewed 1960 by Albert E. Brumley & Sons/SESAC (admin. ClearBox Rights)
All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Sole Selling Agent of this 2014 arrangement, Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
www.hopepublishing.com 800-323-1049

The copying of this music is prohibited by law and is not covered by CC0, Licensing, or OneLicense.net.

Written by Albert E. Brumley in the 1920s, "I'll Fly Away" is an iconic gospel song that has been covered by countless artists over the years. Brumley was inspired by his longing for eternal salvation and the hope of being reunited with loved ones in heaven. The song's catchy tune and heartfelt lyrics have made it a beloved classic that continues to inspire hope and perseverance.

4. "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" by Thomas A. Dorsey

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND
(Take My Hand, Precious Lord)

Words and Music by
THOMAS A. DORSEY

Ballad

© 1938 (Renewed) WARNER-TAMERLANE PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

Written by Thomas A. Dorsey in 1932, "Take My Hand, Precious Lord" has become a staple in gospel music. Dorsey composed the song during a period of great personal hardship as he mourned the loss of his wife during childbirth. The lyrics, a plea for divine guidance and comfort in times of despair, resonated deeply with the African American community, making it an enduring anthem of faith.

5. "Oh, How I Love Jesus" by Frederick Whitfield

Full Score

Frederick Whitfield/
Arranged by R. Vicente

Oh, How I Love Jesus

Originally a poem written by Frederick Whitfield in the 19th century, "Oh, How I Love Jesus" was later set to music. The song encapsulates the profound love and adoration believers feel towards Jesus Christ. Its simple yet powerful message has made it a cherished hymn in gospel music, reminding listeners of the immeasurable love of God.

6. "People Get Ready" by Curtis Mayfield

People Get Ready-Curtis Mayfield lyrics & chords

from www.traditionalmusic.co.uk

People Get Ready-Curtis Mayfield

D Bm G D 4 x

D Bm G D
People get ready, there's a train a coming;
you don't need no baggage, you just get on board
All you need is faith to hear the diesels humming;
don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

D Bm G D

D Bm G D
People get ready for the train to Jordan;
it's picking up passengers from coast to coast
Faith is the key, open the doors and board 'em;
there's hope for all among those loved the most.

D Bm G D

D Bm G D
There ain't no room for the hopeless sinner;
who would hurt all mankind just to save his own
Have pity on those whose chances grow thinner;
for there's no hiding place against the Kingdom's throne

D Bm G D
So, people get ready, there's a train a coming;
you don't need no baggage, you just get on board
All you need is faith to hear the diesels humming;
don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

Bm G D
You don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

Curtis Mayfield's "People Get Ready" combines elements of gospel and soul music, creating an uplifting tune with a powerful social message. Mayfield initially wrote the song as a call for racial equality during the Civil Rights Movement. The lyrics serve as a reminder that, just as people prepare for physical journeys, they should also prepare their hearts and minds for spiritual salvation.

7. "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" by Civilla D. Martin

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Words by CIVILLA D. MARTIN
Music by CHARLES H. GABRIEL

Warmly

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system shows the piano introduction with a treble and bass clef, a 6/8 time signature, and a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The tempo is marked 'Warmly'. The piano part includes a 'With pedal' instruction. Chords are indicated above the staff: C, C/bb, F/A, Fm/Ab, C/G, and G7. The second system contains the first two lines of lyrics: 'Why should I feel dis-cour-aged? / Let not your heart be trou-bled, / When-ev-er I am tempt-ed.' The third system contains the next two lines of lyrics: 'Why should the shad-ows come? / His ten-der word I hear, / when-ev-er clouds a-rise, / Why should my heart be / and rest-ing on His / when songs give place to'. The piano accompaniment continues throughout the lyrics.

Copyright © 2018 by HIL LEONARD CORPORATION
International Copyright Secured. All Rights Reserved.

Low resolution sample

© 1999-2021 Virtual Sheet Music, Inc. & Hill Leonard Co.

Civilla D. Martin's "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" was inspired by a conversation she had with her bedridden friend, Mrs. Doolittle. Despite her difficult circumstances, Mrs. Doolittle had an unwavering trust in God, comparing her situation to the care He provides for sparrows. This poignant conversation served as the basis for the lyrics of the song, reminding us all that God watches over us and provides for our every need.

8. "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" by Thomas A. Dorsey

PRECIOUS LORD, TAKE MY HAND¹ (Take My Hand, Precious Lord)

Words and Music by
THOMAS A. DORSEY

Ballad

Ab/Eb Db/Eb Ab/Eb Db/Eb Ab Ab#5 Fm7

mp

rit. a tempo

Eb7sus Eb9 Abmaj7 Ab13

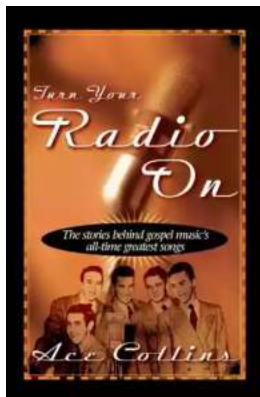
Db6 Ddim7 Abmaj7 Ab Ab6

Bb13 Eb9 E9 Eb9 Eb13#11

© 1938 (Renewed) WARNER-TAMERLANE PUBLISHING CORP.
All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission.

Written by Thomas A. Dorsey, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" holds a special place in gospel music history. Dorsey composed the song as a response to the grief he experienced after losing his wife and newborn child. The song served as a source of solace and strength during times of turmoil, reminding believers that God is always there to provide comfort and guidance.

These are just a few examples of the timeless gospel songs that have touched hearts and souls throughout the years. Each song carries a unique story, reflecting the diverse experiences and deep faith of the artists who brought them to life. So, the next time you listen to your favorite gospel song, take a moment to appreciate the profound stories behind the lyrics and let their timeless messages guide you.



Turn Your Radio On: The Stories Behind Gospel Music's All-Time Greatest Songs

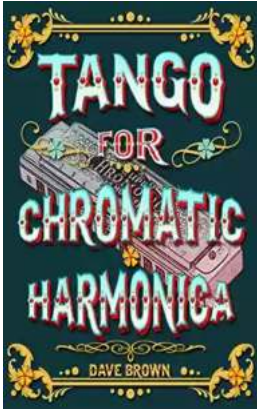
by Ace Collins (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 969 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 272 pages



Turn Your Radio On tells the fascinating stories behind gospel music's most unforgettable songs, including "Amazing Grace," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "He Touched Me," "I'll Fly Away," "Were You There?" and many more. These are the songs that have shaped our faith and brought us joy. You'll find out: What famous song traces back to a sailor's desperate prayer, What Bill Gaither tune was recorded by Elvis Presley in 1969 -- and won a Grammy, What song was born during a carriage ride through Washington, D.C., at the onset of the Civil War. Turn Your radio On is an inspiring journey through the songs that are part of the roots of our faith today.



Tango For Chromatic Harmonica Dave Brown: Unleashing the Soulful Melodies

The hauntingly beautiful sound of the chromatic harmonica has mesmerized music enthusiasts for decades. It is an instrument that effortlessly blends with various genres,...



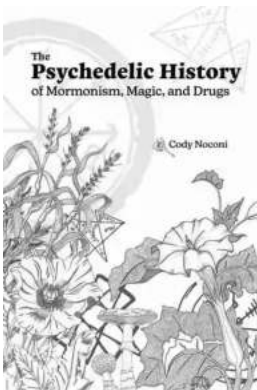
How To Tie The 20 Knots You Need To Know

Knot-tying is an essential skill that everyone should possess. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, a sailor, or simply a regular person who enjoys DIY...



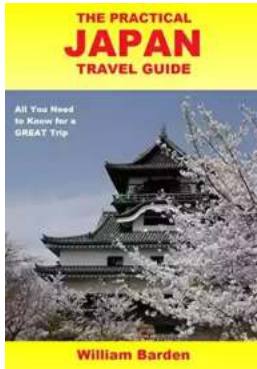
The Politics Experiences and Legacies of War in the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand

War has always had a profound impact on nations, shaping their politics, experiences, and legacies. This article examines how the United States, Canada, Australia,...



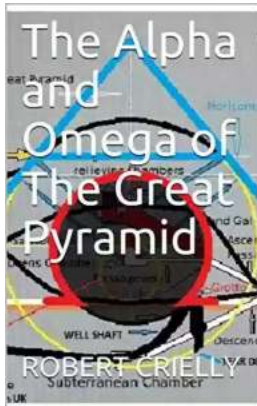
The Psychedelic History Of Mormonism Magic And Drugs

Throughout history, the connections between religion and altered states of consciousness have always been fascinating. One such connection that may surprise many is the...



The Practical Japan Travel Guide: All You Need To Know For A Great Trip

Japan, known for its unique blend of tradition and modernity, is a fascinating country that offers endless wonders to explore. From ancient temples to...



The Alpha And Omega Of The Great Pyramid: Unlocking the Mysteries of the Ancient Wonder

The Great Pyramid of Giza is undeniably one of the most fascinating structures in the world. Standing tall and proud for thousands of years, its...



Digital Subtraction Flash Cards in Color: Shuffled Twice to Help You Memorize Arithmetic!

Mathematics is an essential subject that plays a crucial role in our everyday lives. It forms the foundation for problem-solving skills and logical thinking. As...



Unveiling the Enigma: Explore the Fascinating World of Bang Barry Lyga

Hello, dear readers! Today, we have a real treat for all literature enthusiasts as we dive deep into the captivating world of Bang Barry Lyga. Renowned for his exceptional...

